

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to incorporate a cross-reference to related U.S. patent application 10/285,644 in accordance with 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2). A petition for claiming the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of application 10/285,644 is also submitted herewith in accordance with 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3). Accordingly, the present application is now a continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent application 10/285,644.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 18, and 19 have been amended and claim 32 has been added. Support for the amendments are found, for example, in the specification on page 9, lines 18-21, page 10, lines 3-5, page 14, lines 3-10, page 18, lines 6-16, and page 236, line 23-page 237, line 25. Hence, no issues of new matter are presented. Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-32 will be pending in the application.

I. Response to Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In response to the rejection, claim 18 is amended to provide an antecedent basis for the term "the particle". Therefore, amended claim 18 satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Similar amendments have also been made to claim 1 to clarify the antecedent basis for "particle." Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

II. Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. Oka' 288

Since the present application is a continuation-in-part application of this cited reference, the reference is no longer considered to be prior art.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

B Yabuki, Yamamoto, and Oka'925

Since the present application is a continuation-in-part application of Oka'288 (US10/285,644), the claimed invention of the present application has the benefit of the earlier filing date of Oka' 288. Therefore, none of Yabuki, Yamamoto, and Oka'925 are considered to be prior art.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections in view of these references.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, all the claims pending in the application are believed to be allowable. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret A. Burke
Registration No. 34,474

TAIYO, NAKAJIMA & KATO
Telephone: (703)416-0376
Date: August 25, 2004